



Panther Run Elementary
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Pembroke Pines, Florida 33029
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www.pantherrun.com

“Changing the world, one child at a time”

Elaine L. Saef, Principal
Shannon M. Chacona, Assistant Principal

Panther Run Mission Statement

The mission of Panther Run Elementary School is to work collaboratively with the students, staff, parent community and business partners to provide a positive, stimulating, nurturing, technology-rich environment that will enable our students to enrich their maximum potential in all areas of the curriculum and prepare them to be effective members of society in the next century. We provide a quality education by instilling a love for learning and preparing students for the future. We work together to accomplish our mission by providing a stimulating, interesting and disciplined environment, rich with diversity of activities and experiences designed to meet the individual needs of all students.

School Characteristics

Panther Run Elementary School has an enrollment of approximately 781 students in grades kindergarten through fifth. The ethnicity of the students is 4% Multi-racial, 5% Asian, 16% African American, 42% Hispanic, and 33% Caucasian. 8% of the students are on free or reduced lunch. Our school is a neighborhood school with a 97% daily attendance rate. We have an Autism cluster and over 400 active volunteers.

Curriculum and Instruction

The school day begins with WPRE-TV news conducted by students. Students are then scheduled for reading, math writing, language arts, science, health and social studies. Reading is a two-hour block of learning time; math is a one-hour block. Special activities, which include computer time, Writing Lab, Successmaker computer lab, media center, physical education, art and music, are offered to students daily. Students are introduced to subject areas through a multi-media approach. Students in grades three, four and five use FCAT Explorer. All students in grades first through fifth use the Riverdeep, Accelerated Reader and Successmaker technology programs to enhance individualized reading comprehension and mathematical problem solving skills.

Reading

Panther Run uses the Florida Sunshine State Standards, basal series and supplemental phonics programs: Road to the Code, Read Naturally, Wilson Reading and Wilson Foundations. Students are grouped for reading homogeneously and evaluated for progress every week. Students in all grade levels have a two-hour reading block.

Mathematics

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are instructed in mathematics using the Florida Sunshine State Standards and the basal series: Teachers use techniques that deliver “hands on” and practical mathematics applications. Teachers in Kindergarten through fifth grade provide one hour of math instruction daily. The Acaletics Mathematics Program is being implemented in grades 2-5. Acaletics emphasizes “mind math” as well as other state-of-the-art teaching methods. We also use First In Math in grades 3-5.

Unified Dress Code

Panther Run Elementary has a Mandatory Unified Dress Program. All students attending Panther Run must adhere to this policy and wear only the approved unified school dress. The unified dress code consists of navy blue or khaki colored pants or shorts. Girls may choose to wear skorts or jumpers in these same colors. Polo shirts in hunter green, light yellow, navy or white will be worn and there is also a denim shirt that may be worn. The Panther Run P.T.A. school tee shirt can also be worn. Cargo pants are NOT permitted. Fitted jeans without holes are permitted. Loafers, backless shoes, or sneakers may be worn.



Awards

“A” School on State’s 2002-2011 A⁺ Plan
Demonstrated Adequate Yearly Progress on
the federal NCLB Act 2002-2009
Golden School Award - 1998-2008
Five Star School Award - 1998-2008
Little Red School House Award – 2003 & 2010
Broward Schools Best Practice Award 2009-10
Principal of the Year Finalist 2010

Panther Run's Priorities

1. Support and follow the Broward County Public Schools' missions and priorities.
2. Facilitate learning by providing a progression of skills, which incorporate developmental placement, mastery of basic skills, flexibility of teaching techniques, and materials that provide for all students' learning styles.
3. Encourage student involvement and participation in all school programs.
4. Maintain a secure environment for everyone's safety and welfare.
5. Encourage school involvement from businesses, organizations and residents of the community.
6. Encourage professionalism at all levels and provide training for teachers and staff in creative teaching techniques.
7. Utilize technology to motivate and enhance students' learning skills and incorporate real-life situations into the curriculum.

School Improvement Goals

Parents and community partners are strongly encouraged to participate in our school improvement plans and to attend our PTA/SAC/SAF meetings. The community and parents will be continually updated with information throughout the school year through newsletters and evening meetings.

Student Performance

Implementing reading, writing, math and science strategies to increase student achievement and state assessment scores.

Staff Development

Increasing professional skills in all academic areas with emphasis on technology. There are specific no school days for students that are used for professional development of our teachers.

School Safety & Discipline

School-wide safety and discipline plans have been developed and are in place for the school year.

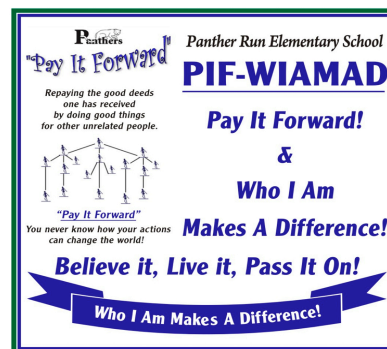
Homework

Regular, purposeful homework assignments are an essential part of the instructional process. Students will be given homework everyday, but not necessarily in every subject. Assignments can consist of written work, oral drills, reviewing daily class work, studying for a test, etc. It is our policy to allow the students ten to fifteen minutes of class time to get started on homework in order for students to be able to ask the teacher questions. Teachers are responsible for assigning homework and having it checked. Students are responsible for knowing what the assignment is, doing it and returning it to the teacher on time. Parents are encouraged to supervise their child's homework and ensure completion and daily return. Parents can contact the teacher regarding homework or other information about their child.

Other important school information is available on our school website in the "Parents Zone" at www.pantherrun.com.

School Schedules

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	Sunshine Before School Care
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Program Begins
7:50 a.m.	First Bell Rings - Students Enter Classrooms
8:00 a.m.	Classes Begin
2:00 p.m.	Classes End
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Sunshine After School Care



Principals' Message

Dear Parents and Students,

I am very excited to be the Principal of Panther Run Elementary once again and would like to extend a special welcome to all of our Panther Run students and families.

I want to congratulate and say how proud I am of all our students, parents, teachers, and staff who helped make our school such a resounding success. Panther Run prides itself on continuing the rich traditions that have brought the school so many accomplishments over the years. It is my honor to announce that Panther Run is an "A" school on the State's A+ Plan and has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act for the past six years. In addition, we once again received the prestigious Golden School Award and Five Star School Award from the State of Florida. What accomplishments! We will continue to honor these traditions while bringing forth innovative ways to ensure continued academic and social/emotional growth for every student.

Our themes for the year are "Pay It Forward!" and "Who I Am Makes A Difference!"

"Pay It Forward" or paying it forward refers to repaying the good deeds one has received by doing good things for other unrelated people. In this way we hope to establish an ever growing, branching, organic flow of generosity amongst our fellow humans. "Pay It Forward", you never know how your actions can change the world!

"Who I Am Makes A Difference" is a philosophy that we all are important and make a difference in the lives of others by our actions, words, feelings and just being who we are. Each of you can and will make a positive difference and have an amazing impact on Panther Run. Thank you in advance for that!

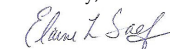
I feel that communication and teamwork between students, parents, teachers, staff and administration is vital. We will do our best to keep you informed and involved in your child's educational experiences. You are strongly encouraged to become a volunteer and a part of the many organizations designed to make a difference in our school. In addition, our wonderful PTA can use your support, as could our School Advisory Council and/or School Advisory Forum. Contact your child's teacher, our volunteer coordinators, the PTA Executive Board members, or administration if you would like more information on how you can get involved. I want you to remember that our school is also your school and we welcome you into our activities.

The partnership between home and school is fundamental to student success. Parents must be involved in their child's education in order for education to be important to your child. As principal, I am asking every parent to make a commitment to get involved and stay involved in his or her child's education. Make a commitment to yourself and your child to spend at least 20 minutes a day communicating one on one about their school day, school work and about your day and work. Make a commitment to spend another 10 minutes reading to or with your child daily. These 30 minutes could be the pivotal point in your child's educational success and achievement! It is the best investment you can make in your child's future!

The staff of Panther Run Elementary is committed to excellence. We look forward to working with all of our students and parents. We share a common goal -- your child's success. Together we can make this a wonderful and successful school for all of the students at Panther Run Elementary!

I look forward to our continued journey into the magnificent world of education, learning and the great school years ahead. I wish all of you and your children much success and achievement!

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Saef
Principal

